The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A pipe joint, comprising:

a joint main body ~~wherein~~ having a joining hole ~~for joining a pipe is formed on the~~ with an inside surface configured to receive a pipe~~,~~ and a threaded part ~~is~~ formed on ~~the~~ an outer surface;

~~a sleeve; and~~

a nut ~~that is screwed~~ threaded onto said threaded part in a threaded state; and

a sleeve dimensioned to be received in said joining hole to a specific position when in the nut is in the threaded state and ~~in which~~ said pipe is ~~and sleeve are~~ inserted ~~through~~ in said joining hole~~, and~~ such that ~~joins~~ said nut retains said pipe ~~to~~ in said joining hole via said sleeve ~~; wherein said sleeve~~ ~~is~~ tightly engaging ~~fitted on~~ said pipe and said joint main body by the ~~screwing~~ threading of said nut onto said threaded part to the threaded state, with the sleeve being deformed to expand ~~to induce deformation that expands~~ radially outward, and ~~after said nut is removed from said threaded part and said pipe and sleeve are pulled out from said joining hole,~~ to prevent subsequent insertion of said sleeve into said joining hole to ~~a~~ the specific position in a subsequent unthreaded state in which said pipe and said sleeve have been pulled out from said joining hole after said nut has been threaded onto said threaded part to reach the threaded state in which the sleeve has been deformed ~~becomes impossible~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~C~~claim 1, wherein

~~a split-level part is formed in the radially external portion of~~ said sleeve~~;~~ has a radially external portion with a split-level part, with ~~and~~ said split-level part being engageable ~~is caught~~ on said joint main body ~~, and~~ such that insertion of said sleeve ~~can no longer be inserted through~~ into said joining hole to the ~~a~~ specific position is prevented after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state ~~after said pipe and sleeve have been pulled out from said joining hole~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~C~~claim 2, wherein

said joint main body ~~is provided with~~ has a split-level part that engages ~~catches on~~ said split-level part of said sleeve when said ~~pipe and~~ sleeve ~~that have been pulled out are~~ is reinserted after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state.

4. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~C~~claim 3, wherein

said sleeve includes a first inclined surface and a second inclined surface that are inclined ~~to the~~ toward a direction of insertion into said joining hole ~~are formed in said sleeve;~~

said first inclined surface widens radially outward with increased distance from ~~the~~ a distal end of said sleeve in the direction of insertion~~;~~, and

said second inclined surface is formed farther toward ~~the~~ a rear end of said sleeve in the direction of insertion than said first inclined surface, and is disposed farther radially inward with increased distance from said first inclined surface.

5. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~C~~claim 4, wherein

said split-level part of said sleeve is formed between said first inclined surface and said second inclined surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 3 ~~through 5~~, wherein

said joint main body includes at least one ~~single~~ slit ~~or a plurality of slits running~~ extending radially outward from ~~the~~ a space in said joining hole ~~are formed in the~~ at an inlet side of said joining hole ~~in said joint main body~~.

7. (Currently Amendment) The pipe joint as recited in ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 3 ~~through 6~~, wherein

said split-level part of said joint main body includes an inclined surface for simplifying the pulling out of said pipe and said sleeve ~~is formed in said split-level part of said joint main body~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 2 ~~through 7~~, wherein

said nut and said sleeve are configured and arranged to prevent ~~is prevented from being in~~ threaded engagement of said nut with said threaded part of said joint main body by ~~at a position in which~~ said split-level part of said sleeve engaging ~~catches on~~ said joint main body after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state.

9. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 1 ~~through 8~~, wherein

said joint main body includes an opposing surface that faces ~~the~~ a side surface of said nut when said nut is screwed onto said threaded part ~~is formed in said joint main body~~; and

said side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body are dimensioned to form a gap in the threaded state to obtain an appropriate tightening torque for screwing said nut onto said threaded part ~~is set according to the dimensions of the gap between the side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 1 ~~through 9~~, wherein

said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.

11. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein

said joint main body includes at least one slit extending radially outward from a space in said joining hole at an inlet side of said joining hole.

12. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein

said split-level part of said joint main body includes an inclined surface for simplifying the pulling out of said pipe and said sleeve.

13. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 3, wherein

said nut and said sleeve are configured and arranged to prevent threaded engagement of said nut with said threaded part of said joint main body by said split-level part of said

sleeve engaging said joint main body after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state.

14. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 2, wherein

said joint main body includes an opposing surface that faces a side surface of said nut when said nut is screwed onto said threaded part; and

said side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body are dimensioned to form a gap in the threaded state to obtain an appropriate tightening torque for screwing said nut onto said threaded part.

15. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 2, wherein

said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.

16. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 5, wherein

said joint main body includes at least one slit extending radially outward from a space in said joining hole at an inlet side of said joining hole.

17. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 5, wherein

said split-level part of said joint main body includes an inclined surface for simplifying the pulling out of said pipe and said sleeve.

18. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein

said nut and said sleeve are configured and arranged to prevent threaded engagement of said nut with said threaded part of said joint main body by said split-level part of said

sleeve engaging said joint main body after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state.

19. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 3, wherein

said joint main body includes an opposing surface that faces a side surface of said nut when said nut is screwed onto said threaded part; and

said side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body are dimensioned to form a gap in the threaded state to obtain an appropriate tightening torque for screwing said nut onto said threaded part.

20. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 3, wherein

said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.